

In the Claims

1. (Original) Apparatus providing a tilting action to a handlebar used to steer a vehicle, said apparatus comprising:

a first and a second nesting bracket, wherein one of said first and second brackets is stationary and attached to the vehicle and the other of said first and second brackets is attached to the handlebar, said first and second brackets being pivotally attached to each other;

a lever, wherein said lever is pivotally attached to one of said brackets, said lever carrying a latch pin, and wherein said other bracket includes a plurality of notches capable of receiving said latch pin;

wherein pivoting said lever causes said latch pin to disengage from said notches and enables said brackets to be pivoted relative to each other.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 and further including a hinge pin for pivotally attaching said brackets to each other.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 and further including a lever pin for pivotally attaching said lever to said one of said brackets.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 and further including at least one latch spring extending between said hinge and latch pins, said at least one latch spring being provided to bias said latch pin within said notches.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 and further including a counterbalance spring extending between said brackets.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said brackets have substantially a U-shaped configuration.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said lever includes slots receiving said latch pin.
8. (Currently amended) Apparatus for use with a vehicle, the vehicle including a handlebar for steering and further including a steering column, said apparatus being provided for tilting the handlebar ~~of a vehicle using such for steering, said apparatus and~~ comprising:
 - a lower bracket including opposed lower bracket sides and a lower bracket attachment member extending between said lower bracket sides, said lower bracket attachment member being provided for attachment to the steering column of the vehicle and said lower

bracket sides including an upper edge with a plurality of notches disposed therein;

an upper bracket including opposed upper bracket sides and an upper bracket attachment member extending between said upper bracket sides, said upper bracket attachment member being provided for attachment to the handlebar of the vehicle and being pivotally attached to said lower bracket;

a lever including opposed lever side plates and a lever push plate extending between said lever side plates, said lever pivotally attached to said upper bracket and carrying a latch pin selectively engagable with said lower bracket notches;

wherein pivoting said lever to disengage said latch pin from said notches enables said upper bracket and the handlebar to be tilted relative to the lower bracket and the vehicle.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said brackets are pivotally attached to each other by a hinge pin extending through said upper and lower bracket sides.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 and further including at least one latch spring extending between said hinge pin and said latch pin.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7 and further including a counterbalance spring extending between said upper and lower brackets.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said upper bracket includes an upper bracket spring tab extending from said upper bracket and said lower bracket includes a lower bracket spring tab extending from said lower bracket and wherein said counterbalance spring is attached at its opposing ends to said upper and lower bracket spring tabs.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said upper bracket side members each include a slot and said latch pin includes latch pin ends, said latch pin ends extending through said slot and slidable relative thereto as said lever is pivoted.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said brackets are pivotally attached to each other by a hinge pin extending through said upper and lower bracket sides.
15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 and further including at least one latch spring extending between said hinge pin and said latch pin.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 and further including a counterbalance spring extending between said upper and lower brackets.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said upper bracket includes an upper bracket spring tab extending from said upper bracket and said lower bracket includes a lower bracket spring tab extending from said lower bracket and wherein said counterbalance spring is attached at its opposing ends to said upper and lower bracket spring tabs.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said lever includes slots receiving said latch pin.

19. (Currently amended) A method for providing a tilting action to a handlebar used to steer a vehicle, wherein the vehicle includes a stationary steering column, said method comprising:

providing nesting upper and lower, pivotally attached U-shaped brackets with
the lower bracket being attached to the stationary steering column of the
vehicle and the upper bracket being attached to the handlebar;
providing a plurality of positioning notches on the lower bracket;
providing a lever pivotally attached to the upper bracket, the lever having a latch
pin engaging the notches on the lower bracket;
pivoting the lever to disengage the latch pin from the lower bracket notches;
tilting the upper bracket relative to the lower bracket thereby pivoting the
handlebar relative thereto and to the vehicle and [its] an operator of the
vehicle; and

pivoting the lever to re-engage the latch pin with different lower bracket notches.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 including:

providing slots in the upper bracket for receiving the latch pin and guiding its motion.

21. (Currently amended) A tiltable handlebar apparatus for tilting [the] a handlebar of a vehicle using such for steering, said apparatus comprising:

a handlebar;

a lower bracket including opposed lower bracket sides and a lower bracket attachment member extending between said lower bracket sides, said lower bracket attachment member being provided for attachment to the steering column of the vehicle and said lower bracket sides including an upper edge with a plurality of notches disposed therein;

an upper bracket including opposed upper bracket sides and an upper bracket attachment member extending between said upper bracket sides, said upper bracket attachment member being attached to said handlebar of the vehicle and being pivotally attached to said lower bracket;

a lever including opposed lever side plates and a lever push plate extending
between said lever side plates, said lever pivotally attached to said
upper bracket and carrying a latch pin selectively engagable with said
lower bracket notches;

wherein pivoting said lever to disengage said latch pin from said notches enables said
upper bracket and said handlebar to be tilted relative to the lower bracket and the
vehicle.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 including:

providing slots in the upper bracket for receiving the latch pin and guiding its
motion as the lever is pivoted.